

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action issued December 18, 2001. The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 10, 19-21, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,654,957 to Koyama (Koyama). The Examiner indicated that claims 11-18 and 26-31 were allowed. The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 22, and 23 were allowable.

Interview Summary

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview on February 12, 2002. During the interview, the Examiner and the Applicant agreed that claim 25, which was not specifically addressed in the Office Action, was allowable but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In sections 1-2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 10, 19-21, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Koyama.

The recitations of claim 5, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable, have been written into claim 1. The recitations of claim 22, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable, have been written into claim 19. Claims 6, 8, 9, and 23, all of which the Examiner has indicated are allowable, have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 25 has also been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, all of these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4, 7, 10, 20, and 21 depend from either claim 1 or claim 19. Therefore, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to claims 1-4, 7, 10, 19-21, and 32 is believed to be overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

In sections 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 11-18 and 26-31 were allowed and claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 22, and 23 were allowable. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Additional Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (order no. 20012.0002).

Conclusion

Claims 5, 22, and 32 have been canceled without prejudice; the Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 19, 23, and 25 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-21, and 23-31 are pending in the application. In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims. Should the Examiner feel further communication would help prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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MARKED-UP COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A telephone to packet adapter for routing an outgoing call issued by a telephone set, said adapter comprising:

a telephone line interface configured to be connected to a telephone line;

a telephone interface configured to be connected to the telephone set;

5 a packet network interface configured to be connected to a packet network;

a controller circuit interconnecting said telephone line interface, said telephone interface and said packet network interface;

said controller circuit being so configured as to route said outgoing call to one of said telephone line and said packet network interfaces depending on at least one preestablished 10 routing rule;

wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that a) said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when a dialled telephone number is a local call and b) said outgoing call is routed to said packet network interface when the dialled telephone number is not a local call.

6. (Twice Amended) A telephone to packet adapter for routing an outgoing call issued by a telephone set, said adapter comprising:

a telephone line interface configured to be connected to a telephone line;

a telephone interface configured to be connected to the telephone set;

5 a packet network interface configured to be connected to a packet network;

a controller circuit interconnecting said telephone line interface, said telephone interface

and said packet network interface;

said controller circuit being so configured as to route said outgoing call to one of said

telephone line and said packet network interfaces depending on at least one preestablished

10 routing rule;

[A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1,] wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when no packet network address corresponding to a dialled telephone number exist.

8. (Twice Amended) A telephone to packet adapter for routing an outgoing call issued by a telephone set, said adapter comprising:

a telephone line interface configured to be connected to a telephone line;

a telephone interface configured to be connected to the telephone set;

5 a packet network interface configured to be connected to a packet network;

a controller circuit interconnecting said telephone line interface, said telephone interface

and said packet network interface;

[A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1,] wherein said controller circuit includes a telephone number database of telephone numbers that may be reached via the packet network;

10 said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that a) said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when a dialled telephone number is not present in said telephone number database and b) said outgoing call is routed to said packet network interface when the dialled telephone number is listed in said telephone number database.

9. (Twice Amended) A telephone to packet adapter for routing an outgoing call issued by a telephone set, said adapter comprising:

a telephone line interface configured to be connected to a telephone line;

a telephone interface configured to be connected to the telephone set;

5 a packet network interface configured to be connected to a packet network;

a controller circuit interconnecting said telephone line interface, said telephone interface and said packet network interface;

[A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1,] wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when said 10 packet network is inactive.

19. (Twice Amended) A method for routing a telephone call issued by a telephone set via a telephone to packet adapter provided with a telephone line interface, a telephone interface, a packet network interface and a controller circuit interconnecting the telephone line, telephone and packet network interfaces; said method comprising the steps of:

5 connecting a telephone line to the telephone line interface;

connecting the telephone set to the telephone interface;

connecting the adapter to a packet network via the packet network interface;

running an agent software for routing the telephone call to either the telephone line

interface or the packet network interface depending on at least one preestablished routing rule;

10 wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a long distance call routing rule; said long distance call routing rule dictates that the telephone interface is to be routed to the packet network interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is a long distance call.

23. (Twice Amended) A method for routing a telephone call issued by a telephone set via a telephone to packet adapter provided with a telephone line interface, a telephone interface, a packet network interface and a controller circuit interconnecting the telephone line, telephone and packet network interfaces; said method comprising the steps of:

5 connecting a telephone line to the telephone line interface;
connecting the telephone set to the telephone interface;
connecting the adapter to a packet network via the packet network interface;
running an agent software for routing the telephone call to either the telephone line
interface or the packet network interface depending on at least one preestablished routing rule;

10 [A routing method as recited in claim 19,] wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a default routing rule; said default routing rule dictates that the telephone interface is to be routed to the telephone line interface when either a) a number dialled onto the telephone set has no corresponding packet network address or b) the packet network is inactive.

25. (Twice Amended) A method for routing a telephone call issued by a telephone set via a telephone to packet adapter provided with a telephone line interface, a telephone interface, a packet network interface and a controller circuit interconnecting the telephone line, telephone and packet network interfaces; said method comprising the steps of:

5 connecting a telephone line to the telephone line interface;
 connecting the telephone set to the telephone interface;
 connecting the adapter to a packet network via the packet network interface;
 running an agent software for routing the telephone call to either the telephone line
interface or the packet network interface depending on at least one preestablished routing rule;
10 [A routing method as recited in claim 19,] wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a database determined routing rule; said database determined routing rule dictates that a) the telephone interface is routed to the packet network interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is present in a database of the controller circuit; and b) the telephone interface is routed to the telephone line interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is not present
15 in the database.